

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the title and replaced the abstract with a new abstract attached hereto on a separate sheet, as requested by the Examiner. Also, Applicant has amended Fig. 2F as shown in the attached "Annotated Sheet" to replace reference label 134 with 136.

Applicant also has canceled claims 11-13 and 21, without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 1-7, 9, 10, 14-17, 22, 24, and 25, and added new claims 26-29. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found, for example, at least in the originally filed claims, and in Figs. 4A-4E and the corresponding written description of those figures. No new matter has been entered. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 11-13 and 21, and of other claims as originally filed, at a later date.

In the Office Action dated October 20, 2003, the Examiner required an election of one of the following allegedly patentably distinct species:

Species 1: Figures 2A-2G;

Species 2: Figures 3A-3E; and

Species 3: Figures 4A-4E.

In addition to electing one of the species identified above, the Examiner required Applicant to provide a listing of claims "readable" on the elected species.

Applicant does not necessarily subscribe to the various characterizations and assertions set forth in the Office Action, including the various allegedly patentably distinct species. Nonetheless, Applicant provisionally elects Species 3, Figs. 4A-4E. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, and 22-25 "read" on the elected species.

Applicant understands that upon the allowance of an independent claim, any nonelected claims depending from or otherwise containing all of the recitations of that independent claim will be rejoined and also allowed.

Applicant requests the examination of claims 1-3, 7, 8, and 22-25.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and Response and charge any additional required fees not otherwise accounted for to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 18, 2004

By: Susanne T. Jones
Susanne T. Jones
Reg. No. 44,472

Attachments: **Replacement Abstract**
 One (1) "Replacement Sheet" of Drawings (Fig. 2F)
 One (1) "Annotated Sheet" of Drawings (Fig. 2F)

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

BEST AVAILABLE COPY